



Denali Commission Update July 2004

Multi Use Facility Program

In January, the Denali Commissioners allocated up to \$2.5 million to be used for qualifying Multi-Use Facilities in FFY 04. In March, after reviewing the 7 eligible proposals, the Multi Disciplinary Review Panel recommended funding 4 proposals, 2 without contingencies and 2 with contingencies. The Commission has reviewed contingencies for Delta Junction Career Advancement Center and will fund this project. The Nenana Teen Center contingencies are being reviewed and a decision on this project is expected by the end of July.

Please contact Rachael Petro, Multi Use Facilities Program Manager, at rpetro@denali.gov or 907-271-1414 with questions.

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Rural Teacher Housing

There is an overwhelming need for adequate teacher housing in rural Alaska. Lack of adequate housing impacts teacher retention and ultimately compromises a community's ability to meet national standards including the No Child Left behind Act of 2003. An earmark of \$10 million was included in the FY 2004 Energy and Water Appropriations bill to fund teacher housing in rural school districts. Through Resolution 04-05 the Commissioners allocated \$5 million to a rural teacher housing program.

The Commission is utilizing AHFC's recent solicitation and in-house review process. All applications received sufficient points to receive funding. AHFC's budget was able to fund two projects. Funding from the Denali Commission will enable the two remaining applicants to be funded.

The Commission's future involvement in teacher housing will depend on Congressional directive and funding availability. The Commission will continue to partner with AHFC on this process and will bring a current statewide survey of rural teacher housing needs to the table by early summer.

The Commission has established a Teacher Housing task force which includes Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, USDA – Rural Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Alaska Association of Housing Authorities and a representative of Alaska School District Superintendents.

Please contact Michelle Anderson, Rural Teacher Housing Program Manager, at manderson@denali.gov or 907-271-1414 with questions.

Elder Supportive Housing Program

Elders living in rural Alaska are leaving their home communities due to lack of adequate medical facilities and housing to accommodate changing needs related to health issues.

To address this issue the Denali Commission received a \$10 million earmark for “facilities serving Native elders and senior citizens to enable them to remain in their home village.” Through Resolution 04-07 the Commissioners approved up to \$4 million of base funding which will be dedicated to this program.

Commission staff worked with the DHSS, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, to refine a business plan template that will be used on the assisted living facility construction requests. The business plan template was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and is the final product of a three-year initiative more commonly known as the Coming Home Program. The most important question that the business plan template will answer is what size facility is affordable in rural Alaska.

Four of the five applicants are in the process of completing business plans. The deadline for submittal is April 7, 2004. Program partners involved in the review process will include: the Alaska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services; Alaska Housing Finance Corporation; Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority; Association of Alaska Housing Authorities; Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and USDA Rural Development.

Please contact Michelle Anderson, Elder Supportive Housing Program Manager, at manderson@denali.gov or 907-271-1414 with questions.

Health Facilities Program

FY04 “Other Than” Primary Care Update

All FY04 Funding for this program has been exhausted.

Primary Care Applications

The Commission still has Primary Care FY04 funding available. Interested applicants should apply for funding using our [Primary Care RFP](#). In general, for projects greater than \$100,000 a [Site Plan Checklist](#) and a [Business Plan](#) must be approved prior to commitment of Commission funding.

<i>Health Program Contact Information: Organization</i>	<i>Contact</i>
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<i>Alaska Primary Care Association</i>	<i>Marilyn Kasmar (907) 929-2722</i>
<i>Alaska Native Health Board</i>	<i>Trudy Anderson (907) 562-6006</i>
<i>Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association</i>	<i>Rod Betit (907) 586-1790</i>
<i>Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health</i>	<i>Bill Hogan (907) 465-3370</i>
<i>Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA)</i>	<i>Jeff Jessee (907) 269-7963</i>

Energy Program

The energy program receives about 58% of the Commission's funding for infrastructure projects. Energy projects have received over \$223 million since the genesis of the Denali Commission, including \$56.95 million in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2003 and \$48.1 million in FFY04. This is leveraging over \$115 million from other funding sources. The two primary energy program partners used to complete projects are Alaska Energy Authority with \$125.3 million for statewide energy projects plus \$7.9 million for legislative energy projects and Alaska Village Electric Cooperative with \$74.3 million presently funded for statewide energy projects. Five new energy program partners were added this year: Chugach Electric Association, Alaska Electric Light & Power, Four Dam Pool Power Agency, Alaska Power Company, and Southeast Conference

For FFY04 the Commissioners authorized allocation of up to \$70 million for bulk fuel and power projects meeting Commission criteria subject to available funding (Resolution 04-01, <http://www.denali.gov/dcpdb/resolutions/Resolution04-01.pdf>). All funding presently available for energy projects this year (\$39.2 million) has been allocated. This includes \$18.8 million bulk fuel projects and \$20.4 million for rural power system upgrades. Bulk fuel and power upgrade projects will be selected from the statewide priority lists in consultation with AEA and AVEC.

In addition, the Commissioners authorized up to \$22.06 million for several energy-related projects named in the FFY04 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act. Again, this funding is subject to available appropriations, which are currently limited to \$8.9 million. This includes \$2 million to Alaska Power Company for the Tok-Chistochina Intertie project, \$850,000 to Chugach Electric Association for feasibility studies on the Fire Island Intertie and Hope Line relocation and \$6 million for four projects for the Southeast Intertie. These projects also are subject to complying with Denali Commission criteria to receive funding, such as having other funding in place to complete the project, having required matching funds available, having site control for construction projects, etc.

Fifty-four proposals were received by the May 17th deadline for our energy cost reduction projects RFP. This represents the Denali Commission's third offering of funding for construction-ready cost reduction projects. By August we expect to have decisions made as to which projects meet the criteria and can be funded.

Other Energy News: The USDA Rural Utility Service High Energy Cost Grant Program has announced the award finalists for the FFY03 funding. Several Alaska projects were selected this year. The full list of finalists can be viewed at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/electric/index>.

<i>Energy Program Contact Information: Organization</i>	<i>Contact</i>
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<i>AVEC</i>	<i>Meera Kohler, (907) 561-1818</i>
<i>Energy Policy Advisory Committee</i>	<i>Eric Yould, (907) 563-2550</i>

WASHETERIA PROGRAM

FFY 04 RFP has resulted in an award for \$125,000 to Anvik Tribal Council for repair and renovation of an existing facility. Additional outside funding is anticipated for the community's water system. Final details will be coordinated and the project will be on-schedule for 2005 completion.

The balance of the authorized \$2.5 million will be made available through a second RFP scheduled to open 7/15 and close 9/30/04. This second RFP will fund projects for early construction in 2005.

SOLID WASTE PROGRAM

The 2004 goal is to establish pilot project(s) capable of serving specific community needs in a cost-effective, sustainable manner. As many as three technologies are being explored for potential pilots. In keeping with the Denali Commission objectives, staff will strive to work to communities that have prioritized the resolution of this critical health issue.

An RFP is scheduled to open 7/15 and close 9/30/04.

For more information on the Washeteria Program contact Cindy Roberts at 907.271.1414.